

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image forming apparatus comprising:

a sheet placing portion disposed substantially horizontally in a lower portion of an apparatus main body of said image forming apparatus to place a sheet thereon;

sheet feeding means for feeding the sheet placed on said sheet placing portion;

an image bearing member bearing an image thereon;

transferring means for transferring the image borne on said image bearing member to a print surface of the sheet;

fixing means for fixing the image transferred by said transferring means onto the print surface of the sheet;

delivery means for delivering the sheet having had the image thereon fixed by said fixing means;

a main conveying path disposed in a substantially vertical direction on an inner part side of said apparatus main body for guiding the sheet from said transferring means to said fixing means; and

a sheet delivery guide having a guide surface for contacting with the sheet to thereby guide the sheet, and constituting a conveying path leading from said fixing means to said delivery means,

wherein said guide surface of said sheet  
delivery guide is a flat surface.

2. An image forming apparatus according to  
5 Claim 1, wherein said guide surface of said sheet  
delivery guide is inclined toward a side of the print  
surface of the sheet at an angle equal to or greater  
than 15° and equal to or less than 30° with respect  
to a nip line of said fixing means.

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3. An image forming apparatus according to  
Claim 2, wherein the nip line of said fixing means is  
inclined with respect to said main conveying path in  
a direction to bend the sheet toward the side of the  
15 print surface.

4. An image forming apparatus according to  
Claim 3, wherein the nip line of said fixing means is  
inclined toward the side of the print surface of the  
20 sheet at an angle equal to or greater than 10° and  
equal to or less than 35° with respect to said main  
conveying path.

5. An image forming apparatus according to  
25 Claim 2, wherein said guide surface of said sheet  
delivery guide is inclined toward the side of the  
print surface of the sheet at an angle equal to or

greater than 40° and equal to or less than 65° with respect to said main conveying path.

6. An image forming apparatus according to  
5 Claim 1, wherein said delivery means has a pair of sheet delivery rollers, and a conveyance distance from a nip of said fixing means to a nip of said pair of sheet delivery rollers is 50 mm or less.

10 7. An image forming apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said delivery means has a pair of sheet delivery rollers, and a nip of said pair of sheet delivery rollers is located substantially on an extension plane of said guide surface of said sheet  
15 delivery guide.

8. An image forming apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said delivery means has a pair of sheet delivery rollers, and a nip line of said pair  
20 of sheet delivery rollers and said guide surface of said sheet delivery guide substantially align with each other.

9. An image forming apparatus according to  
25 Claim 1, further comprising optical means for applying light to said image bearing member, wherein said optical means is disposed so as to apply the

light substantially perpendicularly to said main conveying path on a front side of said apparatus main body and above said sheet placing portion.

5           10. An image forming apparatus according to Claim 9, wherein said optical means has a polygon mirror, and an optical path from said polygon mirror to said image bearing member is in a plane.

10           11. An image forming apparatus according to Claim 10, further comprising a housing for holding said transferring means and said fixing means, wherein a size of said housing along a depth direction thereof is equal to or greater than 1.4  
15 times and equal to or less than 2 times a spacing from a center of rotation of said polygon mirror to a surface of said image bearing member.

            12. An image forming apparatus according to  
20 Claim 11, wherein said sheet placing portion has a sheet feeding cover openable in a front direction of said apparatus main body, and a trailing edge side of the sheet placed on said sheet placing portion in a sheet feeding direction by said sheet feeding means  
25 is supported by said sheet feeding cover.

            13. An image forming apparatus according to

Claim 12, wherein the size of said housing along the  
depth direction thereof is a spacing from a front  
thereof in a state in which said sheet feeding cover  
is closed to an inner part side surface of said  
5 housing.

14. An image forming apparatus according to  
Claim 2, wherein said delivery means has a pair of  
sheet delivery rollers, and a nip of said pair of  
10 sheet delivery rollers is located substantially on an  
extension plane of said guide surface of said sheet  
delivery guide.